

How Jesus' People Treat Enemies

Part 11: Kingdom Manifesto

⁴³***"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'*** ⁴⁴***But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*** ⁴⁵*so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.* ⁴⁶*For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?* ⁴⁷*And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?* ⁴⁸*You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."* Matthew 5:43-48

1. Refresh: What is the Secret to Living the Jesus Life?

A) **Weakness:** Jesus' Opening Statement...

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

B) **Weakness:** We are Poor in Spirit and as Helpless as a Child.

"Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." Mark 10:15

C) **Weakness:** We are Poor in Spirit, as Helpless as a Child, and Spiritually Ill

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." Mark 2:17

"Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you." Matthew 21:31

2. So, Who Is Jesus Referring to as "My Enemy"?

A) Those who **Intentionally Oppress** Me

*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who **persecute** you...* vs. 44

B) Those who **Actively Oppose** the Kingdom of God in Me

*...For he makes his sun rise **on the evil** and on the good, and sends rain on the just and **on the unjust.*** vs. 45

C) Those who **Passively Ignore** Me for my Faith

*For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And **if you greet only your brothers**, what more are you doing than others?... vs. 46-47*

3. Practically, How Am I to Love my Enemies?

A) Make the **First Move**

And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others?... vs. 47

B) Meet their **Physical Needs**

...For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. vs. 45

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink... Romans 12:20

C) **Pray** for God to Bless Them

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you... vs. 44

4. How is it Possible to Love My Oppressors like this?

A) Because their Opposition is a Sign of Your Blessing

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” Matthew 5:11

B) Because a Great Reward Awaits You

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:12